

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 27, 2006

Mr. Brian France
Chief Executive Officer, NASCAR
P.O. Box 2801
Daytona Beach, FL. 32120-2801

Dear Mr. France:

We would like to commend NASCAR for announcing a switch from leaded to unleaded fuel beginning in 2008 for public health reasons. As noted in the letter we sent to you last year, it is our belief that NASCAR should also blend ethanol with unleaded gasoline. The announcement last week made no mention of ethanol use.

With an octane rating of 113, ethanol is a proven replacement for lead in gasoline and entirely capable of providing the kind of performance necessary to compete in the world of stock car racing. Today's engines and fuel systems are well suited to ethanol. And its clean-burning characteristics reduce exhaust emissions compared to regular unleaded gasoline.

As a renewable fuel made from American agricultural products, ethanol helps provide economic stimulus to rural communities in the form of new jobs, increased farm income, and local tax revenue. Utilizing ethanol would not only meet your fuel needs, but reinvest in the communities in which many of your strongest fans reside.

Using ethanol also provides substantial energy security benefits to the nation. We are importing nearly sixty percent of our oil from abroad, and that level is expected to increase in coming years. By putting ethanol in your cars you would help put us on a path toward energy independence.

This transition from leaded fuel provides NASCAR a unique opportunity to seize on the use of alternative, renewable fuel. Like its counterparts in the Indy Racing League which is switching to 100% ethanol by 2007, NASCAR can promote the use of renewable fuels by demonstrating their effectiveness at the highest levels of engine performance. Since 1976 Brazil has made ethanol the official fuel for racing car competitions in that country.

There is no question that ethanol production is ramping up to meet growing demand. The energy bill which was signed into law last year included a provision that will include a minimum of 7.5 billion gallons of renewable fuel into the nation's gasoline

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supply by 2012. This and other legislation will help ensure that ethanol is available for motor vehicle fuel consumers including NASCAR.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the benefits of renewable fuel use.

Sincerely,



Tom Harkin
United States Senator



Jim Talent
United States Senator



Blanche Lincoln
United States Senator



Norm Coleman
United States Senator